

In the Drawings

Please replace originally filed Figures 3 and 4 with the enclosed replacement sheets for Figures 3 and 4.

REMARKS

Applicant has elected Species II (Figure 5) without traverse. Claims 1-20 and 28-41 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.141(b) and have been cancelled.

In response to the Examiner's comments with respect to Figures 3 and 4, Applicant has submitted herewith replacement sheets for Figures 3 and 4.

In response to the Examiner's comments concerning the Abstract, Applicant has amended the Abstract to cure the deficiencies noted by the Examiner.

In response to the Examiner's comments with respect to reference numeral 54 and the "latching extensions" and "collar section" on pages 11 and 12 of the specification, Applicant has amended the first paragraph on page 12 of the specification.

The Examiner has objected to claims 21-27 for the reasons stated in the office action. Claims 24 and 27 have been cancelled. The Applicant has amended remaining claims 21-23, 25 and 26 to resolve the issues relating to the Examiner's objections.

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-27 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Yoshiharu et al. (JP 10220654) ("Yoshiharu"). In order to further patentably distinguish the claimed invention, Applicant has amended

claim 21 to incorporate the elements and limitations of claim 24, and has cancelled claim 24. Claim 21 now recites "wherein the serrated tooth-like profile exhibits a steeply descending flank on the side facing away from the insertion direction in the socket connecting section". Yoshiharu does not disclose this structural feature and therefore, cannot anticipate amended claim 21.

Yoshiharu relates to a water supply apparatus that has a hose connecting part (2) with a serrated tooth-like profile. The serrated tooth-like profile in Yoshiharu shows flanks, each of being referred to by reference number (10) (see Figures 1, 2 and 4 of Yoshiharu). Each of the multiple flanks of the hose connecting part (2) in Yoshiharu are provided with the same reference sign (10) and therefore, these flanks (10) are similar to each other. Applicant submits that because flanks (10) in Yoshiharu are similar to each other, Yoshiharu does not anticipate originally filed claim 24. Since the elements and limitations of claim 24 have been incorporated into claim 21, Applicant submits Yoshiharu does not disclose the particular structure of the corrugated pipe connecting arrangement recited in amended claim 21. Therefore, Yoshiharu does not anticipate claim 21.

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-27 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Skinner (US 4222594)

("Skinner"). Skinner relates to swivel couplings. Figures 4 and 5 of Skinner shows ribs 22 and 24 and walls 32. Applicant refers the Examiner to Figures 5 and 6 of the instant application wherein the arrows in the center-line of the figures clearly show the meaning of the phrase "insertion direction" which is recited in the claims of the instant application. Applicant submits that the Examiner's comparison between rib 24 of Skinner and the steeply descending flank recited in amended claim 21 is not correct. In amended claim 21, the serrated tooth-like profile (130) exhibits a steeply descending flank (132) on the side facing away from the insertion direction in the socket connecting section. However, the rib 24 of Skinner, as adduced by the Examiner, faces in the insertion direction (see Figures 4 and 5 of Skinner). In accordance with features of originally filed claim 24 which have now been incorporated into claim 21, the Examiner should compare the wall 32 of Skinner with the flank 132 recited in amended claim 1. In Figure 5 of Skinner, every wall depicted exhibits the reference numeral 32. Therefore, these walls 32 are similar to each other. Thus, Skinner does not disclose a specially shaped flank and certainly does not disclose a "steeply descending flank" as now recited in amended claim 21. Thus, for these reasons, Applicant submits that Skinner does not anticipate amended claim 21.

Applicant has made a similar amendment to claim 25. Specifically, Applicant has cancelled claim 27 and has incorporated the elements and limitations of claim 27 into claim 25. Some elements of claim 26 have also been incorporated into claim 25. Specifically, claim 25 recites "said serrated tooth-like profile having an ascending flank in the insertion direction, the serrated tooth-like profile exhibiting a steeply descending flank on the rear side of the ascending flank". Claim 25 further recites "when the corrugated pipe or its connecting region is pulled or wrenched out of the section of the socket". Support for this amendment is found in the instant specification, page 12, last paragraph, and page 13, line 1. Thus, for the same reasons given above, Applicant submits that Yoshiharu and Skinner do not anticipate amended claim 25.

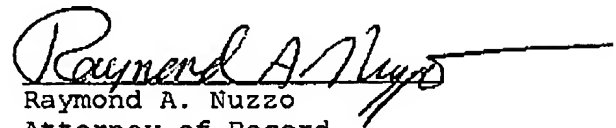
Applicants submit that since it has been shown that claims 21 and 25 are now patentably distinguished from the cited references, then dependent claims 22, 23 and 26 are patentable as well.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are therefore earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at 203-467-7895 for a telephone conference if the Examiner believes there are any outstanding issues regarding this amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,


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